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The Little Central American War.

It is not usual to have a war, and have it all over, between two successive issues of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*. But that is about what has occurred in Central America the past month. We have been treated to one of those miserable conflicts, now much rarer than formerly, in Latin America, which would not be worth the trouble to record were it not for the conditions out of which they spring.

It has not been easy to find out what it was about. One of those revolutions without which a few of our South and Central American neighbors do not yet seem able to live broke out in Guatemala in May. It seems to have grown out of either the irregularity of the presidential election or the unwillingness of a faction that the president should continue in office longer. Expeditions were worked up and went from Salvador to aid the revolutionists. Various engagements took place between the Guatemalan troops and the revolutionists, the fighting, according to reports, being very stubborn and savage.

As a consequence of the entrance of Guatemalan troops into her territory, Salvador formally entered the conflict, and the war became international. Honduras became involved also with Salvador, because of the aggression of Guatemalan troops upon her territory, and the war seemed on the point of involving the whole northern part if not the whole of Central America. Bad blood was up, and death and destruction were ready to walk abroad.

At this juncture President Roosevelt, through the United States Ministers to Guatemala and Salvador, tendered the good offices of our government with a view to restore peace. His efforts were warmly seconded by the Mexican government. The three Central American governments, in response to these friendly overtures and apparently alarmed at the thought of a bitter and costly war, were induced, to agree to an armistice, which began on the morning of July 19. Their representatives met on the United States Cruiser "Marblehead," on the high seas off the Guatemalan coast, in the presence of the American and Mexican diplomats. On the 20th, after a spirited discussion, terms of peace were agreed to and a treaty signed, and the peace commissioners were landed on their respective coasts that evening and the next morning. That was very quick work, especially in the matter of a war.

We notice that our friend, Senator Gamboa of Mexico, who has attended two recent Mohonk Arbitration Conferences, who is a member of the Hague Court and is now Minister to the Central American States, was one of the Mexican representatives at the Conference, and that he did excellent work in bringing about an agreement. Perhaps he will be able to do still more valuable

service in inducing the Central Americans to quit their squabbling and fighting and to live in peace and order like decent human beings.

The articles of peace provided for the withdrawal of the armies in three days, for disarmament in eight days, for exchange of prisoners and release of political prisoners, for the negotiation of a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation within two months, and that any difficulties over the treaty and all future concrete complaints between the three countries shall be submitted to the arbitration of the Presidents of the United States and of Mexico. Let us hope that this admirable form of settlement may prove effective in preventing any such conflict in the future.

It is certainly a most encouraging thing that the governments of both the United States and Mexico are so advanced and strong in the general spirit of peacemaking as to have been able, by purely peaceful methods, to arrest this conflict before it assumed large proportions. The spirit in which they acted, a spirit which is now rapidly permeating the whole body of civilized nations, represents an immense advance over the day when nations looked on, perhaps in satisfied silence, and allowed two of their sister nations to fight to the bitter end. The prevention of war is hereafter to be one of the chief concerns and chief glories of the governments of states.

It is germane, also, to remark that the new spirit is pervading the Latin-American peoples perhaps as rapidly, in a way, as any others. In many of them revolutions are practically a thing of the past. International war is now comparatively rare among them, and in arbitration agreements they are in general at the very front. Orderly methods of government are in most of them taking the place of the dictatorships of the past, and there is reason to believe that in a decade or two they will not disgrace themselves any more by such episodes as that of which we have been writing.

Peace Work at the American Institute of Instruction.

For the first time in its seventy-six years of history the American Institute of Instruction, at its meeting at New Haven the 9th-12th of July, took up in a serious way the subject of peace instruction in the public schools. The session devoted to this subject, in the Department of Peace Instruction, of which Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead, Chairman of the Arbitration and Peace Committee of the National Council of Women, had been asked to take charge, was perhaps the best attended of any of the department meetings, the room assigned having to be given up for a larger hall.

An admirable paper on the teaching of history was presented by Dr. William A. Mowry, author of several

books of school history, and a member of the Committee of three appointed by the American Peace Society in 1905 to investigate the subject of history-teaching in the public schools in reference to peace and war. A clear and interesting address on the significance of the Hague Court and on the celebration of the 18th of May in the schools was made by Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society. An address on patriotism, criticising the superficial and jingoistic spirit which is often taken for patriotism, was made by Prof. Arthur M. Wheeler, of the Chair of History in Yale. Mrs. Mead, among other things, called attention to the unfortunateness of the enormous naval display to be made next year at the Jamestown Exposition and to the fact that during a period in which our population has increased twenty fold our expenditures on armaments have increased two hundred fold.

At one of the evening sessions President Faunce of Brown University gave an eloquent and impressive address on the "Educating of the People for International Arbitration," in line with the tenor of his Mohonk speech given in our July issue.

Two resolutions introduced by Mrs. Andrews were adopted, first by the Department meeting and afterwards by the Institute in full session, declaring in substance that all teaching should be permeated by the peace spirit, and that a committee be appointed to prepare a plan for organizing the teachers of the country for an active campaign of peace instruction in the schools. The following persons, all of whose support had been pledged beforehand, were named on the committee: Dr. Nathan C. Schaeffer, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Pennsylvania and president this year of the National Educational Association; Hon. Walter E. Ranger, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Rhode Island and president of the American Institute of Instruction; Dr. William A. Mowry, Dr. Homer B. Sprague, chairman of the Committee of three of the American Peace Society mentioned above; Principal George I. Purington, of the State Normal School, Farmington, Me.; Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead and Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews. This committee is to make report both to the American Institute of Instruction and to the National Educational Association, the president of which, Dr. Schaeffer, is to introduce into his inaugural address at the next meeting the subject of arbitration and peace instruction in the public schools.

The teachers at the New Haven meeting, of whom there were seven or eight hundred, are reported to have shown, at least many of them, enthusiastic interest in the subject. There is little doubt, so one of the members of the committee writes, that practically the entire

body of public school teachers of the country may easily be brought to throw their influence and that of their positions in support of the movement for international peace, through what may reasonably be considered the most powerful agency at command, that of the training of the young in proper ideas and feelings about the relations of nations and peoples to each other. We shall expect great and lasting results from what was inaugurated at New Haven, as well as from the movement begun in 1905 for the keeping of the 18th of May as Peace Day in the schools.

The Japan Peace Society.

May 18, the anniversary of the opening of the Hague Conference in 1899, was commemorated in Tokyo by the completion of the organization of the "Japan Peace Society," of which we have spoken in previous numbers. The first hour of the meeting was given to the presentation of the "History of the Peace Movement" by Dr. A. Oltmans, professor in the Presbyterian College, and to the theme, "Why I Am Interested in the Peace Movement," by Judge Watanabe, chief of the Tokyo Court. Both addresses were able presentations, and will be printed and circulated by the Society. Judge Watanabe declared himself to be interested in the peace movement as a Christian, as a lawyer and as a citizen of Japan.

The Board of Directors of the new Society is composed of one judge, two college presidents, two members of parliament, one bishop, one lawyer, two pastors, one business man, one Y. M. C. A. secretary, and three educational missionaries. The officers of the Society are: President, Judge Watanabe, Chief of the Tokyo Court; Vice-President, Dr. K. Ibuka, President of the Presbyterian College; Recording Secretaries, Hon. Sho Nemoto, M. P., and Professor E. W. Clement, principal of Duncan Academy; Corresponding Secretaries, K. Hirazawa, of the Tokyo Bar, and Gilbert Bowles, head of the Friends' Mission; Treasurers, T. Watase, a business man, and Dr. A. Oltmans, professor in the Presbyterian College. Such a group of directors and officers ought to make any organization sure of success. Committees on Membership, on Literature, and on a Lecture Bureau were chosen to undertake the actual work of the Society. It is proposed to use both the press and the platform. The editors-in-chief of two of the leading Tokyo dailies are heartily supporting the movement, though not connected with the Society. Though little effort has yet been put forth to secure members, the Society starts out with a membership of eighty, most of whom are leaders of thought, and some of whom have already become real and powerful prophets of peace.